

## Agency Activity Inventory by Agency

Appropriation Period: 2005-07 Activity Version: Governor's 2005-07 Budget - New Law

**Agency:** 460 - Columbia River Gorge Commission

### Implementation of the Management Plan and National Scenic Area Act

All counties of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area administer land use policies set forth by the Gorge Commission, with the exception of Klickitat County. (The Commission implements these policies for Klickitat County.) The Commission reviews county-approved plans for development to ensure consistency with the Scenic Area Act and Management Plan and disperses grant funding to Clark and Skamania counties to provide planning and permitting services required by the Management Plan. It also reviews federal monies dispensed by Oregon and Washington investment boards in the form of economic development loans and grants.

**Statewide Result Area:** Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

**Category:** Preserve and restore natural systems and the environment

FY 2006				FY 2007			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$450,000	\$232,000	\$218,000	5.3	\$441,000	\$230,000	\$211,000	5.2

#### Expected Results:

A Management Plan for the Gorge that is implemented in a consistent way, and that meets the intent of Congress. Development in the National Scenic Area that complies with the guidelines that are set forth in the Act and Management Plan. Increased employment and economic vitality in urban areas of the Columbia River Gorge counties, while maintaining the resource protections required in the Scenic Areas of the Columbia River Gorge.

**Outcome Measure:** Percentage of county development decisions that are reviewed during the land use permitting process by Gorge Commission staff

FY02 Actual	FY03 Actual	FY04 Actual	FY05 Estimate	FY06 Proposed	FY07 Proposed
0%	0%	41%	55%	70%	70%

### Policy Making and Hearing Citizen Appeals

The primary function of the agency is to set land use policies for counties with land in the National Scenic Area. The counties of the Gorge carry out these policies and issue land use decisions. Citizens have the option of appealing county decisions to the Commission, which acts as a quasi-judicial body by reviewing the facts of the case and rendering a final decision.

**Statewide Result Area:** Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

**Category:** Preserve and restore natural systems and the environment

FY 2006				FY 2007			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$300,000	\$160,000	\$140,000	3.3	\$316,000	\$168,000	\$148,000	3.3

#### Expected Results:

A cohesive set of land use ordinances for the National Scenic Area. Protection and enhancement of the Gorge resources, as mandated by the National Scenic Area Act. Consistency among Gorge counties in administering land use ordinances and issuing building permits that comply with Scenic Area regulations. The ability of the citizens to approach the Commission to hear issues and make determination of correctness of county land use decisions. This activity also contributes to the development decisions measure listed with the Implementation of the Management Plan activity.

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## Public Outreach and Technical Assistance to Counties

This activity increases public awareness of the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan, and provides assistance to counties in its implementation. The Commission is developing a Geographic Information Systems database for the Gorge, which will include a digitized map, parcel identification, and location of scenic, plant, animal and cultural resources.

**Statewide Result Area:** Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources

**Category:** Preserve and restore natural systems and the environment

FY 2006				FY 2007			
Total	GFS	Other	FTEs	Total	GFS	Other	FTEs
\$157,000	\$83,000	\$74,000	2.2	\$164,000	\$87,000	\$77,000	2.2

### Expected Results:

Increased understanding of the Scenic Area Act by the citizens and counties of the Gorge. Decreased appeals by citizens due to an increased understanding of the guidelines, and increased development that meets those guidelines. Land use decisions by the county planning departments that are consistent with Scenic Area guidelines. Understanding of the guidelines by the county planners that will result in decisions that comply with Scenic Area guidelines. A greater ability of the county planners to explain Scenic Area guidelines to citizens of their counties. This will result in fewer appeals to the Commission of county decisions.

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